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Amendment to the Claims:

In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format, a complete listing of claims is provided herein.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for providing a set of software components for component-oriented software development, said method comprising:
 - providing a set of software components out of which a software application to be executed by an apparatus comprising processor means and memory means can be partly or entirely assembled, wherein said software components are self-contained, reusable software units that can be visually composed into applets or applications using visual application builder tools;
 - assigning a different numeric identifier to each component of said set of software components; and
 - storing each assigned numeric identifier in the corresponding component.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric identifier comprises a bit-length of 8 or 16 bit.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising loading two or more software components of said set of software components into said memory means of said apparatus, and storing said two or more software components therein.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - loading said software application into said apparatus and storing said software application in said memory means;
 - providing means for instantiating said loaded software components upon request of said software application;
 - loading said means for instantiating into said apparatus; and
 - storing said means for instantiating in said memory means.

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5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a full Virtual Machine being able to execute every instruction for a predetermined object-oriented programming language.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a limited Virtual Machine being able to execute only certain instructions for a predetermined object-oriented programming language.

7. (Previously Presented) A system for providing a set of software components for component-oriented software development, said system comprising:

means for providing a set of software components out of which a software application to be executed by an apparatus comprising processor means and memory means can be partly or entirely assembled, wherein said software components are self-contained, reusable software units that can be visually composed into applets or applications using visual application builder tools;

means for assigning a different numeric identifier to each component of said set of software components; and

means for storing each assigned numeric identifier in the corresponding component.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, further comprising means for loading two or more software components of said set of software components into said memory means of said apparatus, and means for storing said two or more software components therein.

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9. (Previously Presented) A computer program product loadable into memory means of a digital computer, comprising software code for performing a method for providing a set of software components for component-oriented software development, said method comprising:

providing a set of software components out of which a software application to be executed by an apparatus comprising processor means and memory means can be partly or entirely assembled, wherein said software components are self-contained, reusable software units that can be visually composed into applets or applications using visual application builder tools;

assigning a different numeric identifier to each component of said set of software components; and

storing each assigned numeric identifier in the corresponding component.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 9, the method further comprising loading two or more software components of said set of software components into said memory means of said apparatus, and storing said two or more software components therein.

11. (Previously Presented) A device comprising processor means and memory means, in which a set of software components is stored, said software components to be partly or entirely assembled into a software application to be executed by said device, wherein each of said software components comprises a different numeric identifier, comprising a bit-length of 8 or 16 bits, and wherein said software components are self-contained, reusable software units that can be visually composed into applets or applications using visual application builder tools.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

a stored software application; and

means for instantiating said software components upon request of said software application.

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13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the device comprises at least one of a chip card, a Smart Card, a set-top box and a Personal Digital Assistant.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said set of software components is at least one of, subsequent to being partly or entirely assembled into said software application, updated by updating at least one software component of said set of software components and supplemented by adding at least one software component to said set of software components.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein said set of software components is at least one of, subsequent to being partly or entirely assembled into said software application, updated by updating at least one software component of said set of software components and supplemented by adding at least one software component to said set of software components.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing said apparatus with a limited Virtual Machine being able to execute only a subset of instructions for a predetermined object-oriented programming language, wherein the set of software components is accessible by the subset of instructions; and

accessing, by said apparatus with a limited Virtual Machine, a full Virtual Machine for the predetermined object-oriented programming language residing at a computing unit coupled to said apparatus, said accessing allowing said apparatus to execute additional instructions of the predetermined object-oriented programming language.

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17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for loading said software application into said apparatus and means for storing said software application in said memory means;

means for instantiating said loaded software components upon request of said software application;

means for loading said means for instantiating into said apparatus; and

means for storing said means for instantiating in said memory means.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 10, the method further comprising:

loading said software application into said apparatus and storing said software application in said memory means;

providing means for instantiating said loaded software components upon request of said software application;

loading said means for instantiating into said apparatus; and

storing said means for instantiating in said memory means.